

Help is always welcome!!

By Linda Laws
Community relations advisor

Can't you just smell spring in the air? White snowdrops are giving way to bright yellow daffodils and purple, yellow and white crocuses, and soon the cherry blossoms will be on the trees. We hope those cold days of winter are gone and that sunny days (yes, we do get sunshine here) are around the corner.

The better weather will bring more people out of their homes, and will also bring out collectors for all kinds of charitable activities and events onto our streets in the hope of raising much-needed money for worthy causes.

The picture on this page got me thinking about the many ways in which base people contribute to community organisations and the difference this help can make to so many people. There is not one week that goes by without at least one letter arriving in my office asking for help in some form or other.

They range from a plea for manpower on a self-help project to an ambitious request for an enormous monetary donation.

They are passed on to base agencies for consideration and action. If you would like to contribute as an individual, I can give you details of a number of current projects.

There are other ways in which to get involved with projects, too.

Comic Relief or Red Nose Day

You may have noticed on your way to work this morning people sporting red noses (which are very uncomfortable after a while) and wondered why. You will even see the noses on the fronts of cars. Well, it's in aid of Comic Relief to raise money for charities in Africa and Britain. The initiative started around the time Bob Geldorf engaged on his massive task of feeding the world. The idea is to pay to have a laugh, and groups will think up all kinds of ideas to raise money. Last Saturday, shoppers in Bury St. Edmunds were asked to pay for a kiss from one such group. Judging by their bucket, it seemed to



For more information about living in Britain, call me at Ext. 3145.

be working. Also, while driving through a tiny village at the weekend, I was confronted – in the middle of the road – by a group of children from a local riding school on their ponies dressed up as clowns. They were also raising money for this organisation. How could I drive by?

Daffodil Day

The Marie Curie Cancer Care Daffodil Day is Saturday and silk daffodils will be on sale as part of the charity's campaign to raise more than £35,000 in Suffolk. Marie Curie nurses provide respite care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, free of charge.

London Marathon

Many individuals and groups running in the April London Marathon will be doing so to raise funds for their nominated charity. So if you have a British neighbour or friend running, please try to support them.

University Rag Weeks

In a few weeks, you will see even stranger happenings on the streets, when students from local universities will be out raising funds – and I can tell you, they think of some pretty wacky ideas in an effort to be different. It would not be unusual to come across a group pushing their friends along on a four-poster bed. This is quite a disconcerting experience if you happen to be sitting in a traffic queue minding your own business.

Lambing weekend

Springtime is lambing time and some of the local farms will open their doors to allow the public to see the ewes with their tiny lambs. One such farm is Wimpole Home Farm which is eight miles southwest of Cambridge off the A603. The farm is open this weekend from 10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Also, some of the rooms in Wimpole Hall will be open but still in their winter conservation covers. Wimpole Hall is a National Trust property which opens to the public during the summer months.



Photo by SrA. Grace Hunt

Look where you can help

Mike Goodhand, the British Red Cross Director of International Development for the United Kingdom, explains the hardships faced by refugees in Rwanda to pupils at the RAF Lakenheath Elementary School. The students are planning fund raisers to raise money for the refugees. To contribute or for more information, call Ext. 2297.